
-RIGHTEOUSNESS-

All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. There is none righteous, no, not one. God is righteous, and God alone; but we do not call men righteous.

Some men may think that they can get by with God just because they may be as good as some church members they have seen. But God requires a holiness and righteousness of men. Where is man going to get them? How is he going to measure up to God's requirements?

Abraham was a friend of God. But where did he get the requirements to be on such terms with God? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. This is imputed righteousness. It is imputed because of faith. Any man can have this. Any man that believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. It is not how good he may be or how morally upright he may be in the sight of his neighbors, but it all depends on his faith. Ah! Who knows the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works!

What do we mean by imputed righteousness? Do you have a dollar bill? Just a piece of Paper, isn't it? But with a little printing on it in green ink in just the right way, and it is imputed with the worth of a silver dollar. But the paper is almost worthless.

So by faith we put on the righteousness of Christ. When God looks at us He sees there the righteousness of His Beloved Son. It is the only garment with which we can approach His presence. We are the worthless pieces of paper. But if we have the imprint of Christ, then we are righteous in the sight of God.

We cannot find righteousness in the earth. Neither can we find it in the heavens, for they are unclean in His sight. But a day is coming when we shall awake in His likeness. Then shall we show forth His righteousness. But now, we, according to His promises look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

-WHAT SHALL THIS MAN DO?-

A great many are wondering about this same question yet today. All during the Acts period, we know that the 12 were busy making the re-offer of the King and the Kingdom. But if any were still alive at the end of Acts, what were they to do then? Of course we only know of one of them who lived beyond this period, and that was John, the beloved disciple.

John's gospel was written after the ministry of Paul was completed, if we can trust history. The internal evidence will place it after Acts 28:28, for it begins with the national rejection of Israel at that time. Since Paul closed the doors of the Kingdom at the end of Acts, then what gospel could John preach?

The gospel that he has written answers the question. In it we find no Kingdom message. In it we find nothing about repentance, only a historical account of water baptism, and nothing about the Lord's Supper; all of which are connected with the gospel of the Kingdom. In it we find the Lord proclaimed the SAVIOR of the world. We find that after the national rejection, John tells us that as many as received Him were given the power, (not to become children of the kingdom), but the children of God. John proclaims that whosoever, even those of any color or nationality, may believe and have everlasting life.

Since John's name is to be written in the foundations of the New Jerusalem, he could not very well have a part in and proclaim the gospel of the Dispensation of the Mystery. But God did have a ministry for John, and now we know what this was to do. The gospel of everlasting life is foundation work. On it is built the higher calling. Only a few ever know and receive the truth of the higher calling. Most of the Christians today that are earnest and devoted to the Lord have only everlasting life. Like that of Job and the dying malefactor, their destiny is an earthly one. They will have a part in the new earth. Their resurrection will be a later one.

-THE HOPE OF HEAVEN-

One, who believes that his church began at Pentecost, says, "The church is divided into 3 parts: the church triumphant (the church in heaven), the church suffering (Purgatory), and the church militant (here on earth)."

But if his church did begin at Pentecost and Peter was the father of the church, there is a great contradiction with Scriptural facts. Neither Peter nor the rest of the 12 ever knew of heaven being a hope for any of God's people.

That a family of God should have a hope of heaven was never revealed till the 12 had completed their ministry of the Kingdom, (the Acts of the apostles). Even John, whose ministry lasted later than that of Paul, had no message of a hope of heaven. Those who only have everlasting life and do not belong to the Church which is the Body of Christ, they have the earth for their hope. Man was made of the earth and was to have dominion over the earth. Job expected to see his Redeemer at the latter day on the earth (Job 19:25, 26). As we search all the prophecies of the O T we find that the only hope that Israel had was to be resurrected and enjoy the kingdom here on the earth. During Acts it was declared that David had not ascended up to heaven (Acts 2:34). David fully expected to see his Lord rule over Israel here on earth.

Another mistake usually made is that heaven and hell are opposites. Now all the Scriptures speak of only 2 spheres in which there will be life hereafter, heaven and earth. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. But you can start at Genesis and read thru your Bible and the first mention of a man having a hope of heaven is found in Eph.

The Kingdom will be here on earth. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob will be in it and will sit down with those who believed and were added at Pentecost. It is further revealed that the most faithful of these will enjoy the New Jerusalem here on the earth after the Kingdom is over. But the Pentecostal or Acts church will never see heaven.

-ENLIGHTENMENT-

There are several statements in the Word that should make us pause and do a little pondering. It may be that we at times over rate our persuasive powers and cease to give God the praise when praise is due. Many also have the idea that a man can, at any time he chooses, accept God's salvation.

But the Lord made it plain that no man could come to Him except the Father draw him. Seven times in His great prayer of John 17 He speaks of His own as those whom the Father had given Him. In Acts the Lord added daily such as should be saved. Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesians the spirit of wisdom and revelation in Christ. He further prayed that God would strengthen them with might by His Spirit in the inner man so that Christ might dwell in their hearts.

From these and many more similar Scriptures, it may be safely concluded that a man does not understand the Word except the Holy Spirit enlighten and teach him; that a man is so utterly depraved that he will not seek God of his own will, but must be drawn by the Spirit; that any spiritual enlightenment comes from the getting of spiritual understanding by the washing of the Word, (being born from above); and last, that no man can know and understand the gospel of the Dispensation of the Mystery unless he is taught by the Spirit.

It then becomes apparent that God is enlightening those who will respond. He has chosen those who will hear. Thus we can understand what He meant when He said that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. There is not an instance in the Lord's earthly ministry where He called a person and that person did not respond.

It is our business to spread the Word far and wide. God will enlighten those who will respond. We are not responsible for the harvest, only for the sowing. We can rest assured that God knows those that are His and that He will speak to their hearts.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #11

1. What shall we do that we might work the works of God? 6:29
2. What did the Jews seek? 1 Cor. 1:22. Mark 8:12
3. Does faith require evidence?
4. When the Lord speaks of the True Bread, does He mean to imply that the bread in the wilderness was false?
5. Whence comes the True Bread?
6. What does the True Bread give?
7. Do you think the people understood what was meant by the True Bread? 34
8. How can we feed on the Bread of Life today?
9. For what do many hunger and thirst today? Matt. 5:6, compare with Luke 6:21, 25 and Rev. 7:16.
10. What was the Lord's estimate of this people? 6:36
11. What people come to Christ? 37
12. If one does come to Christ, what assurance may he have?
13. Why did the Lord come down from heaven? 38
14. What 2 things does the Father will? 39
15. Why cannot the believer be lost? 40, 47
16. Since John's gospel was written for Gentiles after the Kingdom was closed, we wonder what might be meant by "the last day." It is used only in John, here and 6:44, 54; 11:24; 12:48. Compare with Job 14:12, Luke 23:43 and Rev. 20:11-13.
17. Were the Jews satisfied with the Lord's explanation of His origin?
18. Did they have any idea that He was virgin-born?
19. Can any person come to Christ at any time he may choose? 44
20. What 2 things must a man do then before he can come to Christ? 45
21. What great difference was there between the manna in the wilderness and the Bread of Life? 49, 50
22. What now was the True Bread and how does it bring life to the world?
23. What does a revelation of that which is spiritual do for the carnal? 52

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; Miss Adeline

Kreuser of Grand Rapids Mich. has joined the BML. Will the new member from Washington, Ill. please write and give us the name? It is not too late to join the BML. Send in your answers to the questions on this page. Have several membership pins left yet.

"O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" Thus the heartbroken king David wept for his worthless, no-account son. This son had been unruly and selfish from his youth up. He engineered the murder of his brother. He led an insurrection against his father, the king. It mattered not that he endangered the life of his father, and then to add insult to injury, he shamed his father before all Israel.

But in spite of all these faults, David loved Absalom. When the battle was in progress and the news came in, David was not so much interested in the outcome of the battle, but would ask, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" You may well ask how that he could so love such an ungrateful and rebellious son, even to the extent that he willingly would have died for him.

If we feel like criticizing David, let us remember at the same time that God has also loved us in spite of all our faults and rebellious natures. But He went farther than David could. God, manifest in flesh, did die for us. I suppose that none of us was any better than Absalom. But God was rich in mercy. He bestowed His grace upon those that were His enemies. How we ought to love and adore Him!

The love of God is beyond our comprehension. When we look at ourselves, we wonder how He could love us. But we have His Word for it that He does love and care for us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. So let us respond to that love. Let us honor and praise Him and serve Him. That is the least that we can do for the One Who died for us.

Keep writing.

Sincerely in HIM,
OSCAR M. BAKER.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

***HELP WANTED:** We would like about 1,000 names and addresses of folks who might be interested in this little paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY.

***BULLETIN:** Your editor is slowly improving, but will do no heavy work for several months, if ever.

***FOR SALE:** 60 copies of ALL TRUTH by J. Eustace Mills, and 20 copies of NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRIES by the same author. All at 75¢ each postpaid, (while they last).

***NOTICE:** Plans are being made for a visit to the Peoria, Ill. area some time in June. Look for announcement later.

***WANTED:** Nos. 1 and 2 of THE BABBLER. A kind friend sent 3, 4 and 5 last month.

***PERSONALS:** H. E. McMeen of Hanna City, Ill. visited with us Mar. 25th and 26th. Elroy Robinson of Chicago, Ill. and A. O. Bowser of Bremen Ind. visited with us Mar. 21st.

***SORRY:** News just came in that the Companion Bible is going out of print again. There is a price change in the leather bound one, too. Make enquiry before ordering.

***RECEIPTS FOR MARCH:** Nos. 434 to 451 with a total of \$190.10. Expenses \$32.64. We are certainly grateful for your fellowship in this undertaking. We have noticed that some are making regular contributions, some weekly and some monthly.

***TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** We just cannot make our NEEDS known. Being in the flesh yet, it is impossible for us to discern what are needs and what are wants. But the Lord knows, and He will take care of the needs.

***ACTIVITIES:** Radio Class each Tue. at 7 P.M. over station WRSW. Bible class follows at the Hays Hotel in Warsaw at 7:45. The paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY, is published monthly, as the Lord permits. It is free. Ask for it.

***RELEASE:** A 7" tape recording 2 hrs. in length. One hr. of Outline in Eph., and one hr. of MYSTERY IN EPH. It runs at 3.75" per sec. Free for your use if you will return it or send it on to next group. Borrow a machine from a school or club to run it.

***EXTRA!** Extra copies of TFT may be had for distribution. Let us know how many you can use.

***BOOKS:** See #42 for list and prices. We are working on a new complete list to send you some of these days.

***USED BOOKS:** The Two Babylons, Hy-slop, \$2.50. Notes on Genesis, Notes on Exodus, and Notes on Numbers, by C.H.M. at \$1 each. Make me an offer on Vol. XVIII of B. E.

***FAMILY:** Mrs. B. and Walter had the "flu." All OK now.

***REQUEST:** Write often. Tell us something about yourself and family. We like to get acquainted. Pray for us.

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